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District of New Hampshire

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OPERATION STREETSWEEPER

FUGITIVE SENTENCED FOR CRACK DISTRIBUTION

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, New Hampshire State Police Colonel Frederick H. Booth, and Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka today announced that Victor Alejandro Garza, 36, of Reynosa, Mexico, was sentenced in United States District Court in Concord, New Hampshire to 42 months of incarceration to be followed by 6 years of supervised release for possessing and distributing "crack" cocaine.

Garza was convicted of selling "crack" cocaine to an undercover officer in Manchester, New Hampshire on two separate occasions in June 1996. Although Garza was indicted by a federal grand jury on July 10, 1996, he remained a fugitive until his arrest in McAllen, Texas by the U.S. Border Patrol on February 13, 2004 where he was apprehended trying to re-enter the United States. The U.S. Border Patrol were aided in their efforts to locate Garza by the United States Marshals Service. Garza was subsequently transported from Texas by the United States Marshals Service to Concord, New Hampshire where he stood trial in U.S. District Court last June.

Garza's convictions stem from "Operation Streetsweeper," an initiative conducted jointly by the New Hampshire State Police Narcotics Investigations Unit, the New Hampshire State Police Forensics Laboratory, the Manchester Police and the United States Attorney's Office.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "The prosecution of this case represents the continuing efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement, working jointly with the United States Attorney's Office, to successfully prosecute these cases — no matter how much time passes or how long it may take."

Upon his release from federal prison, it is expected that Garza will be deported to Mexico.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Irish.